

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 306077  
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 HA-05 SS-15 NSCE-00 PA-01  
PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 L-03 SSO-00  
/048 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:G DE SANTILLANA/KAR  
APPROVED BY ARA/CAR:J GRIFFITH  
H:CCUTTER  
HA:K HILL (SUBS)

-----003410 231506Z /53-L  
O 231451Z DEC 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 306077

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SOPN, HA, US

SUBJECT: REACTION TO NEREE AFFAIR IN HAITI

REF: PORT AU PRINCE 4548

1. THE DEPARTMENT IS NOT AWARE OF ANY U.S. PRESS REPORTING  
ON OR REACTION TO NEREE INCIDENT IN HAITI APART FROM MIAMI  
HERALD ARTICLE OF DEC. 15 SENT BY USIA WIRELESS DEC. 19.  
(COPY ALSO POUCHED TO POST.)

2. THE DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED, HOWEVER, A CONGRESSIONAL  
INQUIRY FROM REP. WALTER FAUNTROY (D.C.). REP. FAUNTROY'S  
LETTER STATES: QUOTE:

I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE REV. LUC NEREE, A PROMINENT  
BAPTIST MINISTER IN HAITI AND PUBLISHER OF THE JEUNE PRESSE  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 306077

WAS ATTACKED BY PERSONNEL IN UNMARKED CARS ON THE EVENING  
OF DECEMBER 13, 1977 AND BEATEN UNCONSCIOUS. I AM INFORMED  
THAT HE IS IN CRITICAL CONDITION AT THE GENERAL HOSPITAL.

IT HAS BEEN ALLEGED THAT REV. NEREE WAS MARKED AS A TARGET  
BY A "SECRET COMMITTEE AGAINST THE PRESS" AS A RESULT OF  
JEUNE PRESSE HEADLINES ON AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S REQUEST

FOR INFORMATION ON POLITICAL PRISONERS WHO HAD EXPIRED IN

PRISON. JEUNE PRESSE HAD ALSO TAKEN THE LEAD IN EDITORIALIZING ON THE NEED FOR THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF UNIONS IN HAITI. IT IS ALSO MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, A MR. JEANTY, HAD WARNED REV. NEREE TO TERMINATE SUCH EDITORIALS LAST MONTH.

GIVEN THE SERIOUSNESS OF THIS ATTACK AND THE CONDITION OF REV. NEREE IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE MAKE ALL APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF HAITI SO THAT INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED STANDARDS PERTAINING TO THE FREEDOM OF PRESS BE RESPECTED AND THE SAFETY AND WELL BEING OF REV. NEREE BE GUARANTEED.

UNQUOTE-.

3. IN OUR REPLY TO THIS CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY, THE DEPARTMENT IS PLANNING TO INFORM FAUNTROY THAT: (A) WE SHARE HIS CONCERN AT THE ASSAULT ON REV. NEREE; (B) WE HAVE CLEARLY EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN TO THE GOH THROUGH BOTH OUR EMBASSY IN PORT AU PRINCE AND THE HAITIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON; AND (C) WE HAVE ALSO MADE CLEAR OUR HOPE THAT THE GOH, CONSISTENT WITH ITS RECENT ADHERENCE TO THE AMERICAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, WILL PROSECUTE THE PERSONS INVOLVED IN THE ASSAULT ON REV. NEREE IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 306077

ACCORDANCE WITH HAITIAN LAW.

4. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE THE EMBASSY'S VIEWS ASAP ON FURTHER POINTS THAT MIGHT APPROPRIATELY BE MADE IN REPLY TO REP. FAUNTROY'S INQUIRY. VANCE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, CRIMES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 23-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE306077  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** G DE SANTILLANA/KAR  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770479-1056  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19771219/aaaaapso.tel  
**Line Count:** 99  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 48720efd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 PORT AU PRINCE 4548  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 132981  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REACTION TO NEREE AFFAIR IN HAITI  
**TAGS:** PINT, SHUM, SOPN, HA, US, (NEREE, LUC)  
**To:** PORT AU PRINCE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/48720efd-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009